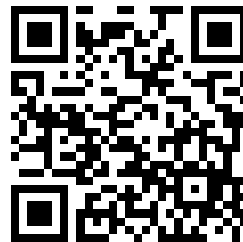

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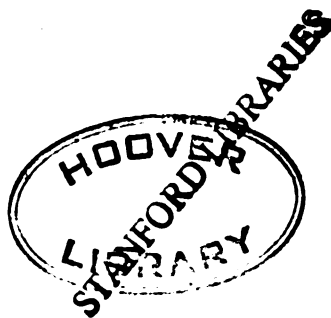


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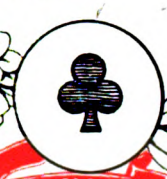
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KENYA



11th DIV. E.A.



EAST AFRICA COMMAND



12th DIV. E.A.



TANGANYIKA



UGANDA



N. RHODESIA



NYASALAND



S. RHODESIA

THE
INFANTRY
OF
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SOMALILAND



KENYA REGIMENT



MAURITIUS

197934



1890-1944

FOREWORD

BY

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM PLATT,

G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O.


GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING IN CHIEF.

EAST AFRICA COMMAND.

TO the infantry in East Africa have come men from every county in the United Kingdom and from every territory between the Gulf of Aden and the Limpopo. Together they share in the traditions of the regiments of which the following pages give a short account, and, in five years of war, together they have added valiantly to these traditions. In comradeship they have mastered the novelty and complexity of the weapons with which the infantry soldier is now equipped. Though the advance of mechanisation and the extension of applied science to war has tended to direct the limelight elsewhere, infantry is still indispensable to victory. In earlier days discipline, courage, endurance, drill and marksmanship formed the basis of the infantry soldier's training. Today technical ability of a high order must be added to that repertoire.

Let us not forget that the tens of thousands of African infantry soldiers serving in this War came with only the haziest knowledge of the issues at stake and that, in all cases, they came as volunteers. For the past five years these men have marched and fought and stood sentinel over vast distances of the African continent and, in two campaigns where the major part of the East Africa Forces were involved were infantry, they have won notable successes.

Today the King's African Rifles and its sister regiments stand ready to take part in the forthcoming campaign in Asia destined to free that great continent from the powerful menace of Japan. In the fighting to come the brunt will fall once again on the infantry and, in final victory, their steadfastness and skill will play a decisive part.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to General Sir William Platt. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

THE INFANTRYMAN

BEFORE the present War started, popular opinion had begun to displace the Infantryman from the fore-front of the battle. Imagination was running riot. Tanks, dive-bombers and parachutists were being jostled into a dominating role on the battle field.

Fortunately those with longer memories and more practical experience stood firm in their conviction that the Infantryman could NOT be displaced from his proper role in battle. Their counsels prevailed and official acknowledgement of the importance of the Infantry soldier was confirmed by increasing the number of men in an Infantry Section from seven to ten. In itself, this decision seems a small point, yet it has had far reaching results in battle.

It was realised by these older and tried men, that the Infantryman might, at times have to fight the battle entirely on his own and that therefore he must be equipped, trained and prepared for the eventuality. The aeroplane, for instance, whilst able to inflict enormous damage upon a position, cannot capture it and hold it, except by dropping airborne infantrymen.

Once this principal was firmly established, new types of weapons had to be provided to meet the new battle conditions, and new methods of training had to be devised.



The Infantryman's basic weapon is still the rifle, with the bayonet for close work, but the fire power needed in modern battle is so great that the rifle alone, is no longer adequate; the advent of the tank and the dive-bomber has also necessitated corresponding counter-measures, and so the Infantryman has been provided with fast firing weapons like the machine gun, the Sten and the Bren gun, and, when heavier striking power is required, he has the 2" and 3" mortar and the P. I. A. T.

Further obstructions to the Infantryman's advance against an enemy position are the anti-personnel mine and barbed wire. The former has to-day almost displaced the latter, and therefore men of the Infantry Units must also know

all that can be known about mines, how to detect them, to render them harmless and to remove them.

Thus it will be seen that the Infantryman of 1944 has had to become the master of many trades and of many weapons, but in addition to this vast knowledge, there are other qualities, basic qualities, which apply to the man, and the man only, the lack of which would nullify all the advantage which might be gained with good equipment and knowledge; the man, the Askari, must be possessed of Courage, Endurance and Loyalty. These qualities are fundamental, the good soldier of to-day being as much dependant upon them as his father and grand-father were in former wars.

The Infantryman of East Africa has once more proved that he possesses all these attributes. There was no doubt about it at the beginning of the present war, his record bore ample testimony to this fact. One factor remained untried, however—that was his ability to master all the new weapons with which he has been armed. That was the unknown quantity, but fighting in the bush or the desert, in mountain or jungle, he has responded splendidly to all the demands that have been put upon him in that respect.

In the campaign against the Italian Armies of Abyssinia, he gained valuable experience and confidence in himself and in his weapons and proved to all his leaders that he still possessed all those qualities which had won renown for his predecessors in the East African Wars since the uniformed and organised Askari first came into existence in East Africa in 1890.

To-day the East African Infantrymen stand fully trained and equipped on the shores of the Eastern Seas of the Indian Ocean, ready to seek out and destroy the yellow fellow who dared to threaten their East African Homelands.

This is, therefore, an appropriate time to look back over the years and consider the historical background of the Askari of to-day. Thus we remind ourselves that there is ample proof in the past, and good cause in these days to justify the confidence which is placed in him by those British Officers and N.C.Os. who again lead him into battle.

In this book are laid out some short notes concerning the Battalions which go to form the East African Infantry, and in the middle will be found a "family tree" which traces the fortunes of the K.A.R. Battalions through the years.

THE BATTALIONS OF THE



1st (Nyasaland) Battalion

THE early history of the 1st and 2nd (Nyasaland) Bns. of the K. A. R. originates in clashes with Arab slave traders and warlike native tribes, which compelled the African Lakes Corporation to employ armed natives under British Leaders to protect their stations. When the Protectorate was proclaimed in 1891, a force of 50 Sikhs was enrolled. By 1894 that force numbered 350 Sikhs and Native regulars, and in 1896 became the British Central African Rifles, being re-named the 1st Bn. Central African Regt. in 1898.

In 1897/98 the C. A. R. under Sir William MANNING were actively engaged against the ANGONI and the ANGURU, while three Coys. were detached to North Eastern Rhodesia where they remained until 1901. In 1899 the Regt. was raised to two Bns. the 1st Bn. in co-operation with the Portuguese, was sent to deal with the YAO Chief MATAKA, and in the same year 100 men proceeded to N. E. Rhodesia on a punitive Expedition, marching 1,000 miles in two months. The 2nd Bn. was sent to MAURITIUS as a Garrison; it was withdrawn in 1900 and sent to SOMALILAND.

Later in the same year half the Bn. was despatched to Cape Coast Castle where, with 200 Africans and 70 Sikhs of the 1st Bn. it took part in the ASHANTI War of 1900/1. This Detachment travelled to West Africa, via the Cape and returned via the Mediterranean thus circumnavigating Africa. The second half of the Bn. left SOMALILAND in Dec. 1900 bound for GAMBIA where it took part in the punitive Expedition of 1901.

On the 1st January 1902 the various East African Forces were consolidated into one Regiment, upon which His Majesty conferred the title of "The King's African Rifles", the 1st and 2nd Bns. Central Africa Regt. becoming the 1st and 2nd Bns. K. A. R. the former garrisoning the British Central Africa Protectorate—and the 2nd becoming available as a reserve Bn. for the East African Protectorates until 1904.



KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

Both Bns. served gallantly in SOMALILAND between 1902 and 1904, the 2nd at EREGO in Oct. 1902 and at GUMBURU in April 1903, where most of the Detachment was overwhelmed, losing all its officers (9); all the Sikhs and 118 Africans killed. The remainder of the Bn. fought a hard action near DARATOLEH, where Major GOUGH, Capt. WALKER and ROWLANDS were awarded the Victoria Cross and two N.C.Os. the D.C.M. Both Bns. were present at JIDBALLI in Jan. 1904 when the enemy lost over 1,000 dead. In 1905/06 the 1st Bn. took part in the NANDI Expedition.



2nd (Nyasaland) Battalion

Thereafter, until the outbreak of the Great War their history is mainly one of Garrison duties, notably in ZANZIBAR between 1907 until Sept. 1911 when the 2nd Bn. was disbanded, and the Germans, with characteristic foresight, enlisted most of them; the men thus lost for reasons of "economy" fighting fiercely against us in 1914/18. The 1st K. A. R. went to SOMALILAND in 1908 and was later actively engaged against the TURKANA and MARAKWET and the MAREHAN in 1913 up to May 1914.

In 1914 the 1st Bn. took the Field against Von Lettow and, with the 2nd Bn. which was reformed 1/4/16, fought throughout the War in Southern Area. On the conclusion of hostilities both Bns. returned to garrison duties, the 1st at ZOMBA and the 2nd at TABORA, until 1920 when the 1st Bn. helped in the final defeat of its old enemy the "Mad Mullah".

In 1923 His Majesty signified his recognition of the splendid services of the K. A. R. by presenting Colours to all K. A. R. Bns. bearing the following Battle Honours:—

ASHANTI
SOMALILAND
EAST AFRICA
1914/1918

KILIMANJORO
NARUNGOMBI
NYANGOA



The Regt. was again honoured in 1925 when His Majesty the King graciously accepted the position of Colonel-in-Chief: it is now once more fighting the King's enemies in World War No. 2.

THE BATTALIONS OF THE



3rd (Kenya) Battalion

THE 3rd (Kenya) Bn. dates its origin back to the days of the Imperial British East Africa Company.

During 1890 some Sudanese, Swahilis and Somalis were engaged for service with the Coy. as armed guards.

In 1895 the Company surrendered its Charter and in July the Foreign Office took over the administration of the Territory.

During the years 1895/96 the Garrison of 866 men was formed into one Unit, styled "The East African Rifles", under the command of Major G. P. Hatch and very appropriately took Fort Jesus, at Mombasa, as its H.Qrs. in 1897.

The E. A. Rifles were soon called upon to serve actively against the rebellious Mazrui and later against the Akamba and the Agikuyu, later still, against the mutineers in Uganda and in 1898/1900, against the Ogaden Somali.

When the K. A. R. Regt. was formed, the E. A. Rifles became the 3rd Bn. of that Corps., moving its H. Q. to Nairobi in 1902, where they are again quartered after a tour of duty at Meru.

From 1902 to August 1914, the 3rd Bn. was actively engaged in operations against the "Mad Mullah", the Maruka Tribe, the Nandi, Embu, Kisii, the Mullah again in 1909, the Marehan, at Serenli in 1911, the Turkana, the Marakwet and once again the Marehan.

When the Great War broke out most of the Bn., was still in Jubaland and was recalled to help hold the Germans until re-inforcements from India arrived. Thereafter, starting at Salaita on 7/8th March, 1915, they fought their way South as far as Namacurra near Quelimane.

After the War the 3rd Bn. returned to Kenya, where it resumed its old time duties in the N. F. D., commencing in April to Oct. 1919 with combined operations between ourselves and Regular Abyssinian Troops against the marauding Tigre. In 1925 the Bn. moved against the Mohamed Zubeir in Jubaland, in company with the 5th, Bn.

3rd Sept. 1939 saw the Bn. once again into Battle.



KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

THE 5th (Kenya) K. A. R. began its career in UGANDA in 1898, as the direct result of the Mutiny. After that event, the establishment of British Officers was largely increased and 200 Sikhs and 200 Punjabi were enrolled in India, to form the Indian contingent of the 1st Bn. UGANDA RIFLES. They reached MOMBASA in May, 1898. When the K.A.R. were formed in 1902, the Indian contingent became the 5th (Indian) (Uganda) Bn.

It continued to exist under that name as a Garrison Bn. until 1904, when it was disbanded.

The 5th was reformed on 1st June, 1916 by incorporating 2½ Companies of the 3rd, stationed on the Northern Frontier, together with Companies of Armed Police and other details, and it was retained in JUBALAND as a garrison and to guard the ABYSSINIAN Border.

These duties entailed many skirmishes with raiding border tribes and finally a section of the JUBALAND SOMALI, the MOHAMED ZUBEIR against which the 5th, with one Company from the 3rd Bn., moved, occupying some wells on the DESHEK WARMA, in which action the SOMALIS suffered 50 casualties and lost 20,000 head of stock.

The cession of JUBALAND to ITALY in June, 1925 relieved the K. A. R. of its duties and in consequence the 5th Bn. was again disbanded in late 1925.

In 1930 the Bn. was again revived, as part of the Northern Bde. to be stationed at NAIROBI, for garrison duties. On the 1st March its old Colours which had been lodged with the 3rd Bn. were once again presented to the Bn. by His Excellency the Governor, Sir EDWARD GRIGG.

On the 15th June, 1938, the re-organisation of the Northern Bde. necessitated a change over in its component Units, the 3rd K. A. R. becoming a cadre Bn. with H. Qs. at NAIROBI and the 5th Bn. becoming a front line Bn. with H. Qs. at MERU.

When the present War broke out the 5th Bn. was holding various strategic positions in the N. F. D. and on the ABYSSINIAN Border whence it proceeded with the advance. It is still on active service.



5th (Kenya) Battalion



THE BATTALIONS OF THE



4th (Uganda) Battalion

THE earliest days of the 4th Bn. link the present with the almost forgotten episode of the occupation of Equatoria by Emin Pasha, and with Capt. LUGARD who was sent by the Imperial British East Africa Company on a mission to MWANGA, King of Uganda in 1890. He was accompanied by a force of 50 Sudanese and Somalis, and 270 Armed porters.

Later, Capt. LUGARD contacted SELIM BEY, commanding the remnants of Emin's troops and, on 17-7-1891, engaged him and his men to serve the Company.

In April 1893, the British Government provisionally assumed responsibility for Uganda, and in September of that year a Protectorate force of 600 Regulars and 200 Reservists was formed.

In December, 1893, Col. COLVILLE, with 420 Sudanese Rifles and 1,000 BAGANDA spearmen launched his campaign against KABAREGA, and in May 1894 Capt. THURSTON brought into BUNYORO the remainder of the Equatoria forces, who had adhered to FADLMULLA BEY, for enrolment.

During 1895, the Regular forces of UGANDA became the "Uganda Rifles" manned entirely by locally recruited Sudanese under British Officers.

From 1894 to 1897 these hardy campaigners put in an astonishing record of service until the Mutiny, in consequence of which a Bn. of 200 Sikhs and 200 Punjabis was raised in India. They reached MOMBASA in May, 1898, and with the addition of locally enlisted Africans formed the 1st Bn. Uganda Rifles.

In 1902, that Bn. became the 4th Bn. K.A.R. and in 1906 it was quartered in BOMBO which remains its H. Qs. to this day.

Between 1902 and 1914 the 4th was actively engaged in LUMBWA, BUDAMA, NANDI, LAKE KIVU, SOMALILAND, and TURKANA, in 1913 against the DODINGA, and then it went to JUBALAND in Feb. 1914, thence back to TURKANA. From the 4th August, 1914 until the Armistice, the 4th Bn., widely scattered between the Coast and the KAGERA RIVER, was in constant touch with the enemy.

Thereafter its duties were mainly of a garrison nature in UGANDA and TURKANA.

Mobilized once more in Sept. 1939, it is still in the Field.



KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

LOCAL armed forces were raised in the islands of ZANZIBAR and MAFIA in 1915. These units became known as the "Zanzibar African Rifles" and the "Mafia African Rifles", until they were amalgamated under the former designation towards the end of 1916.

On the 1st May, 1917, the 7th Bn. K. A. R. was raised, absorbing the "Zanzibar African Rifles" and in July, 1917, the new Bn. moved from Zanzibar to Voi. From the 1st August, it was employed as Lines of Communications and Coastal Garrisons Troops.

After the War, in April, 1919, what remained of the 7th Bn. became No. 1 Coy. of the 6th (TT) Bn. K. A. R., the 7th (Zanzibar) Bn. of the K. A. R. thus disappearing, until the 31st May, 1939, when it was reformed under the title of "The 7th (Uganda Territorial) Bn. K. A. R." with the object of providing internal security in Uganda, and, in the event of War, possibly to take its place as part of the Northern Brigade.



7th (Uganda) Battalion

The Governor of the Protectorate, Sir Philip Mitchell, was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Battalion and recruiting for the 1st Company went with a swing among the modern Buganda young men; the idea of a purely territorial Bn. had appealed. The Company had barely had time to draw its uniforms and kit when it was mobilised and found itself on a war footing and quartered at Bombo. During the advance against the Italians they went through Somalia, thence on to Assab, having at one time five sub units scattered between Harar and Entebbe.

In May 1941 the Bn. was raised to first line strength and as such, it was stationed for two years on the French Somaliland Border, doing mostly patrol routines under very trying conditions.

The 7th Bn. has again gone forward and looks eagerly ahead to the fulfilment of a long training period, on the day of encounter with the enemy.

THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

WHEN first raised, during the last War, the 6th Regt. K. A. R. consisted of two Bns. the 1/6 and the 2/6th, the native personnel being drawn from different tribes in Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.

With the close of the War came the disbandment of most K. A. R. Units and the 6th Regt. was reconstituted into the 6th (Tanganyika) Bn. with the intention that the native personnel should be drawn from Tanganyika Tribes.

This could not be done, therefore two Coys were formed from Kavirondo, Baganda and Nilotics from the 3rd and 4th Bn. and two Coys from Wanyamezi, Wasukuma and Coast Natives, drawn from the 1/6th 2/6th and 7th Bns.

In November 1919, two Kavirondo and Baganda Coys were detached to Somaliland, together with one Coy of the 2nd K. A. R. to form a composite Bn. That Bn. took an active and distinguished part in the operations which followed.

The Bn. then returned to its Base at Dar es Salaam, as a Garrison Bn. It was mobilized in 1939, was on active operations in the East African campaign from June, 1940 until November, 1941, and in the Madagascar campaign from June to November, 1942, being the only K. A. R. Bn. to have taken part in these two campaigns including the operations at Gondar.

In February, 1940, the Bn. moved into the N. F. D. to train; it played a conspicuous part throughout the conquest of Italian Somaliland and Abyssinia and returned to Kenya in March, 1942.

In June, 1942, the Bn. under Lieut. Col. R. G. T. COLLINS, sailed to Diego Suarez, and in Sept. landed at Majunga and took part in the conquest of the Southern part of Madagascar.

It is still on the War path.



6th (Tanganyika) Battalion



THE NORTHERN RHODESIA REGIMENT



THE Northern Rhodesia Regt. originated in armed personnel employed by the British South Africa Company, which, in 1896, had opened four Administrative Stations in North Eastern Rhodesia.

In 1897 a small Detachment, including some selected B. S. A. Police personnel, under Major Robert Coryndon (later Sir Robert), occupied Barotseland and placed it under British Protection at the request of the Paramount Chief. From 1898 to 1901 three Coys of the 1st Bn. Central Africa Regt. occupied North Eastern Rhodesia to enforce Law and Order, thereafter the Barotse Native Police and the North East Rhodesia Constabulary were raised for service in the N. W. and N. E. Territories respectively.

The two Territories were amalgamated under one Administration in 1912 and the old "Barotse Native Police" was then renamed the "Northern Rhodesia Police", comprising a Military and a Civil Section and the N. E. Rhodesia Constabulary was disbanded.

The Field service Bn. of the N.R.P. was instituted in 1914 and served throughout the war until 1919. At first, it was called upon to guard the German South West and East African Borders, but eventually it became part of General Northey's Force. It captured Schukmannsburg, the only German post on the Zambesi, early in the War, and at the end, had the honour, in company with the 1/4th K. A. R. under General Edwards, of receiving General Von Lettow's surrender at Kasama, on 25th November 1918.

From 1918 to 1933, the history of the N. R. Police remained uneventful, but in 1933, the N. R. P. disappeared and the Northern Rhodesia Regt. was born, absorbing the old personnel. On Xmas Eve, 1937, with the introduction of the N. R. Regt. Ord., the Regt. became, for the first time, a Unit of the Imperial Army. In May 1939 His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to become Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

The Regt. was mobilized in September 1939 and is still on active service with the Infantry of the E. A. Command.



THE RHODESIAN AFRICAN RIFLES



WHILE this Regiment has been recruited to a large extent from the Mashona and Matabele tribes of Southern Rhodesia, a good proportion of the men belong to Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia. Language difficulties have been overcome by the employment of English as a general medium, eighty per cent of the Africans having a good understanding of the language.

In comparison with other units of the Command the R.A.R. is of recent origin. It traces its descent from the Rhodesia Native Regiment formed in 1916 — a unit which gained a fine reputation for itself in the tough fighting of 1916-17 in German East Africa.

The Regiment wears as its crest crossed assegais and knobkerrie, superimposed on the shield of a Matabele warrior.

THE MAURITIUS REGIMENT

THE Mauritius Territorial Force was created on the 24th April, 1943 to replace the Mauritius Volunteer Force; two Companies were recruited for service within the Colony.

At the outbreak of War both Coys. were mobilized, but they were disembodied almost immediately. By the end of 1941, however, almost the full strength had been re-embodied, with extended terms of service.

In December, 1940, an additional Coy. was raised, named the Rodrigues Coy, for service in that Island.

Following Japan's entry into the War, one of the existing Coys. which had reached double Coy. strength, was halved to form two new Coys. to which were added a fifth Coy. and a Harbour Defence Unit in March, 1942.

On the 22nd April, 1943, the title of the Territorial Force was changed to the Mauritius Regiment, a name which covers other arms in addition to infantry.

On the 17th December, 1943, Infantry of the Mauritius Regt. embarked for duty overseas.



THE KENYA REGIMENT

THE Kenya Regiment was established on 1 June 1937.

Its primary role was to provide a reservoir of trained European junior leaders to cope with the anticipated expansion of the King's African Rifles and ancillary services in time of war.

It was called out for service on 26 August 1939. Its strength then was just over five hundred. The training staff was from the Brigade of Guards. In peace it was organised into four Kenya companies, a reconnaissance platoon (from which grew the old "Recces") and a strong Uganda platoon. Enlistments now exceed 2,900.

Early in 1939 a battalion organisation became uneconomic and, since then, recruits have been trained in various command depots and schools. Until 1940 men were posted direct to units as officers and N.C.Os. or to the Royal Air Force or to O.C.T.U. From 1941 practically all have gone as N.C.Os. to units.

Out of over two thousand nine hundred men enlisted into the Regiment over 1,100 have been commissioned. Members are serving today in East Africa, Middle East, Italy, France, Asia and on the seas. They are to be found in all branches of the Army as well as in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.



THE EAST AFRICAN SCOUTS



THE decision to form the E. A. Scouts was made in April, 1942. They are more intimately known to the troops as "Askari wa Chui", a name given to them because of their leopard like stealth and bushcraft.

Their Official designation at the time was the "Coast Irregulars", a name they dropped in March 1943, when they were given their present title.

The original personnel was mainly recruited from Southern Tanganyika and Kenya tribes, to whom bushcraft is second nature, and in whom re-action to a sound, or a fleeting shadow, is instinctive and not an acquired art.

They were armed originally with captured Italian carbines, folding bayonets and Biretta automatics, pangas and demolition charges—some, even, like their 1915 predecessors, carried bows and arrows, primitive but particularly silent and effective weapons in the jungle. They are now armed with orthodox weapons.

Their role in this command is to move ahead, and on the flanks of our forces, to obtain information about enemy dispositions, to raid his lines of communications, and to harass his flanks, at the same time protecting our own.

THE SOMALI SCOUTS

THIS Unit was originally raised at HARGEISA in July 1941 under the name of 'THE SOMALI GUARD BATTALION' by order of the then Governor of the Somaliland Protectorate, for the purpose of guarding Italian P.W. at the LAFERUG CAMP, near BERBERA. In Aug/Sep. 1941 it was increased to six companies and took over duties at MANDERA CAMP in the same area. In December 1941 it was reduced to two companies and was sent, under the name of 'THE SOMALI FRONTIER GUARDS' to AISCIA in the ETHIOPIAN RESERVED AREAS where it did good work in the blockade of VICHY SOMALILAND. In May 1942 it was once more raised to a Unit of six companies under the name of 'THE SOMALI COMPANIES', with two companies on the Free French Somaliland Frontier and four in training at HARGEISA and BORAMO. In October 1942 two companies were sent to BENDER KASSIM and SCUSCIUBAN in the MIJERTEIN for special duties, and two companies remained at AISCIA until the liberation of DJIBUTI in December 1942.



THE SOMALI BATTALIONS

THE orders for the formation of the 71st and 72nd Somaliland Battalions were given on the 1st of October and 1st of November 1942 respectively. Both battalions were formed at BABILE in the ETHIOPIAN RESERVED AREAS, the 71st in November 1942 under the title of 'The 1st Somaliland Battalion K. A. R.', and the 72nd on the 2nd of January 1943 under the title of 'The 2nd Somaliland Battalion K. A. R.' They were formed as independent battalions under the 12th (A) Division. The 71st Bn. was brigaded into the 28th (E. A.) Infantry Brigade in March 1943, and the 72nd Bn. into the 29th (E. A.) Infantry Brigade in May 1943, at the end of which month both battalions were re-named with their present titles. After leave from HARGEISA the 71st Bn. rejoined the Bde. in Kenya in October 1943. This battalion has since left the East African Command for service in another theatre of war. The 72nd Bn, after a detachment of the battalion had been operating in the GAHO area near DAGABUR against Shifta, moved south to KENYA in February 1944. Both battalions are composed of men from all main tribes of the Protectorate.



EARLY DAYS!



TWO very remarkable photographs. The first shows the historic scene at Kampala in Uganda when in 1893 Sir Charles Portal hauled down the flag of the Imperial

British East Africa Company and replaced it with the Union Jack. Troops of the I. B. E. A. Company are seen on the left and Selim Bey's Sudanese on the right. In 1890 Lord Lugard, accompanied by 320 men and one machine gun, troops who had been raised at the coast by the I. B. E. A. Company, journeyed to Uganda to treat with Mwanga the King.

During the following year Sudanese reinforcements were recruited from Selim's troops but the force was hard put to it to defend itself in the subsequent fighting against the inhabitants of Uganda. In 1895 the force was formed into the Uganda Rifles.

The second picture, taken in 1910 or 1911 shows a detachment on parade in Jubaland. Patrols in this desolate sandy scrub-covered waste were regularly carried out at this period — patrols which are remarkable even when compared with modern commando achievements. With little water and intense heat the camel provided the only alternative to "foot-slogging".



EARLY TYPES AFRICAN



FEW who have watched African Infantry on parade have thought much of the tremendous changes that have been made in their Uniform as time passed, yet it is true to say that they have evolved, literally, from the kikoi (loin cloth) to the battle dress. In 1890, armed Swahili porters and Baganda riflemen wore loin cloths, jerseys, sandals and such headgear as they fancied: Selim's Sudanese, on very special occasions, wore such parts of their Egyptian uniforms as they could muster.

OF EAST INFANTRY



NOWADAYS, they wear uniforms, ranging from tropical khaki drill, to battle dress most suited to the country they are serving in. The Uniforms shown on this page have already reached an advanced stage in this evolution, the N.C.O. in full marching order in the centre is wearing the 3rd K.A.R. Uniform of 1904, of which the arms, accoutrement, tarbush and sandals are noteworthy. The Bandsman and Drummer shown here are wearing the 1910 Uniform.

THE INFANTRY OF EAST THE KING'S AFRICA

AFRICAN LAKES CORPORATION

Armed Native Levies
under
British Leaders

1891 BRITISH PROTECTORATE PROCLAIMED 1891.

1891 50 Sikh Volunteers
joined from
INDIA

1894 Strength 3 Bns
200 Sikhs
150 Native Regulars

1896 BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICAN RIFLES

1898 1ST BN. CENTRAL AFRICAN REGT.
(Six Companies)

H. E. A.
7 Coys.

1899 2ND BN. CENTRAL AFRICAN REGT.

H. Q.
200 Africans
70 Sikhs

MAURITIUS
SOMALILAND
WEST AFRICA
(Gold Coast)
WEST AFRICA
(Gambia)

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE

1899
1900
1900
1901
1901

IMPERIAL EAST AFRICA
1888 Company Formed
INDIAN
AFRICAN
SOMALI
SOMALI

1895

1898

1900 INDIAN CONTINGENT
Four 3rd Coy.
1901 Sudanese Contingent
Camel Coy. Number 1

1902 WITH EFFECT FROM 1st JANUARY ALL UNITS INCORPORATED

1902-1904 1ST BN (8 Coys.)
Indian Contingent (2 Coys.)
SOMALILAND
NAIROBI
BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA
(Each Bn Six Coys. and a depot Coy.)
BRITISH EAST AFRICA
Nandi Expedition
Economies-Bns cut to four coys
and depot coys abolished
Two Coys. to
ZANZIBAR
Relieved by 2nd. Bn
NYASALAND
Bn less One Coy
to
SOMALILAND
1910 NYASALAND
Reduced to
Bn H.Q.
Two Coys.
Expanded to
Bn H.Q.
Eight Coys.
Independent Coys
served in
ZANZIBAR
TANZANIA
JUBALAND
1913 Indian Contingent Disbanded

1914 1ST BN K.A.R.
1916 2ND BN K.A.R.
Reformed
from independent Nyasaland
Coys. in NAIROBI
Expanded
to form
OCT 1916 Decision by Gen. Smuts then
C-in-C. East Africa
Approval by Colonial Office
Expanded to
JAN 1917 THREE BNS
APRIL 1916
FOUR BNS
including
One Training Bn.
1917
to
1918

OVERSEAS CONTINGENT FOR PALESTINE

1st PROPOSAL 1916 LT. GEN. SMUTS C-in-C

2nd. PROPOSAL 1918 LT. GEN. VAN DEVENTER C-in-C

END OF WORLD WAR ONE prevented the 2nd proposal being put into effect

Three Inf Bdes requiring one year's training after
Two Inf Bdes to be ready eight months after cessation of hostilities

PERIOD OF
PEACE

1ST K.A.R.

2ND K.A.R.

ST AFRICA COMMAND RICAN RIFLES

AFRICA COMPANY

Forces of
ARIS
ESE
LIB
16

IMPERIAL EAST AFRICA COMPANY
(LUGARD—1890)

Sudanese
(Cairo)

Natives
of
Zanzibar
(600)

Armed
Swahili
Carriers
(100)

SUDANESE REMNANTS OF EGYPTIAN OCCUPATION OF EQUATORIA

STANLEY and EMIN PASHA
left South end of
LAKE ALBERT
APRIL—1889

**SELIM BEY'S
SUDANESE**

**FADL
EL
MULA**

1893 1894

TERRITORIES OF IMPERIAL BRITISH EAST AFRICA COMPANY TRANSFERRED TO 1895

IN RIFLES

ANS
NESE
ANS
ised
Coy.
Coy.
10 Men
returned to INDIA.
Coy. formed
uced to four
JUBALAND

UGANDA RIFLES
British Officers
Sudanese O. R's

1898 **1ST BN. UGANDA RIFLES**

Reformed with
SIKHS
PUNJABS
SWAHILIS
(SOMALIS)
SUDANESE

1901 AFRICANS 1388
INDIANS 387
(1775)

SOMALILAND LEVIES 1900
British Officers
100 Camelry
400 Mounted Infantry
1000 Infantry

INCORPORATED INTO "THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES" 1902

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A. R.

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Bn.

A Campaign
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BANDMENT
—1939

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1939.

4TH BN.
(1054)
(9 African Coys.)

Reorganised
7 African Coys.
2 Indian Coys.

1905-1906 Nandi Expedition

1907 1 Coy. disbanded
H Q and 4 Coys. BOMBO
2 Coys. HOIMO
2 Coys. MBARARA
1 Coy. (Indian) KAMPALA
1 Coy. (Indian) ENTEBBE

1909 Bn. H.Q. and 4 Coys.
1910 **SOMALILAND**

1913 Indian Contingent Disbanded
1913 1 Coy. SOMALILAND
1914

1904

5TH (INDIAN) BN
(398)

Disbanded. Majority
Indians time expired
and return INDIA

6TH BN 1904
Reconstituted
with
Punjab Mussalman
from INDIA 1905

British Withdrawal to
Coast 1909
Disbanded because of
British Withdrawal
to Coastal Area 1910

Replaced by
**SOMALILAND CAMEL
CONSTABULARY**

4TH BN. K.A.R.

Expanded
to form
TWO BNS.

Expanded to
THREE BNS.

SIX BNS
including
One Training Bn.

5TH BN
Reformed
ONE BN.

Garrison of
JUBALAND
and
N.F.D.

ONE BN.

**GERMAN
EAST AFRICA**
6TH K.A.R.
TWO BNS

Garrison and L. of C. Duties

**ZANZIBAR
and
COASTAL**
7TH K.A.R.
ONE BN

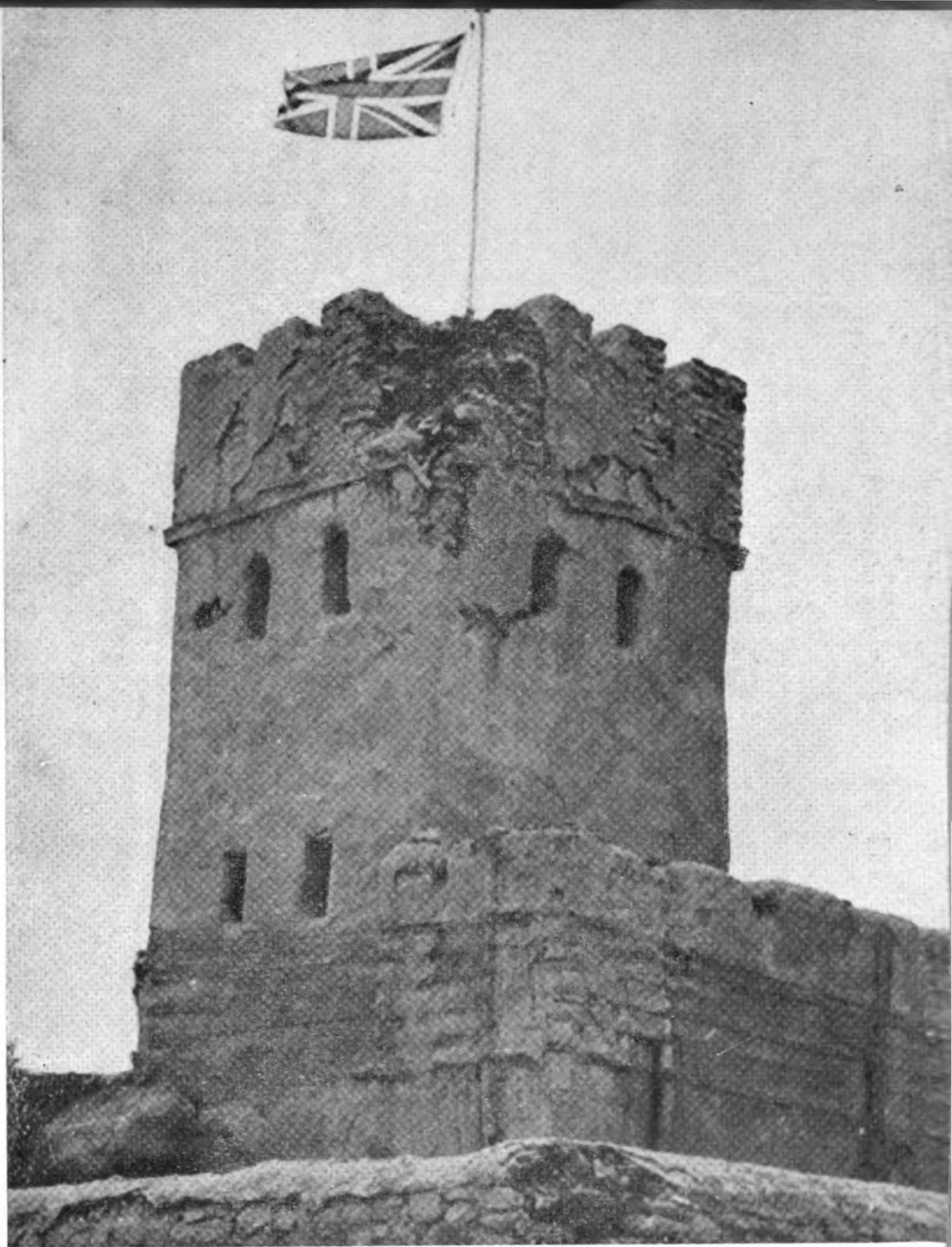
August 1919
1 Coy. absorbed
by No. 1 Coy. 6th K.A.R.
remainder discharged
Oct. 1919
reformed 31.5.39
2nd (Uganda Territorial)
Bn. K.A.R.



VICTORY!

THESE pictures were taken during the victorious campaign in North Africa in 1940/41. Above, the surrender of the Italian garrison to the K.A.R. at WOLCHEFIT where heavy fighting took place in beautiful surroundings. Below, hundreds of Italian prisoners make their way into captivity, escorted by askaris of the K.A.R. This followed the advance from MOGADISCIO to GIGGIGA—744 miles in 17 days—the fastest military pursuit in history.



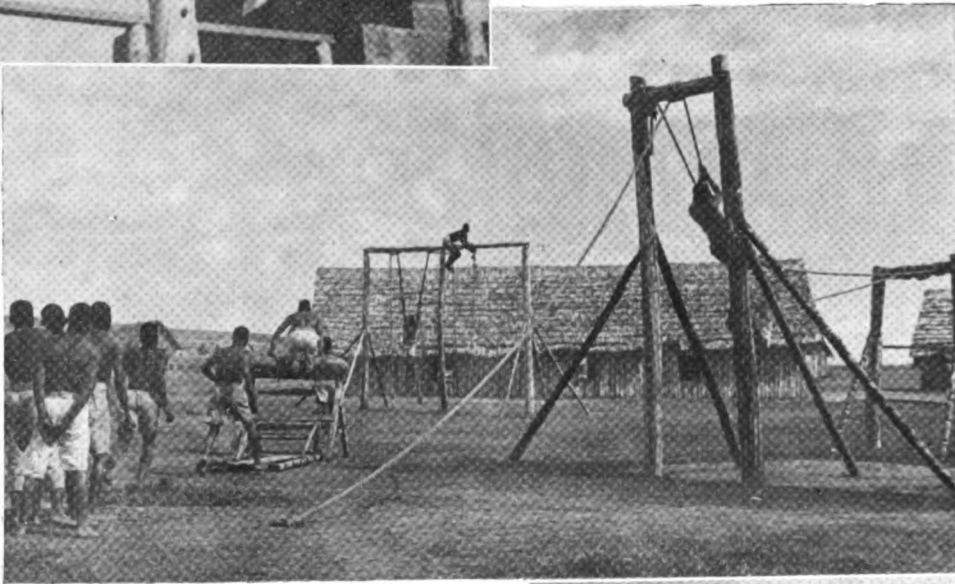


MOYALE FORT after bombardment.

THIS outpost on the Northern Frontier of Kenya was the scene of a very gallant fight in the early days of the present War when one Rifle Company and one 3 in. Mortar Detachment held out for five days against 7,500 of the enemy and 16 guns. The little garrison was finally forced to withdraw through lack of water. Now the Union Jack once more flies over MOYALE.

INFANTRYMEN

THESE scenes show the African Infantryman at various stages of his training. When he first enlists as a raw recruit, he brings little with him save loyalty, intelligence and



OBSTACLES must be surmounted! The infantryman must be able to help himself and others when the need arises, either by practical example or actual assistance.



P
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IN TRAINING

courage. When he is finally done with training he is a first class fighting man — confident in his own ability and ready to tackle any problem with which he may be faced.



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BEFORE going into battle the African askari goes through training courses which are gruelling and tough. Thus when he encounters the "real thing" he is fully prepared.





FAMILIARITY WITH CONFIDENCE

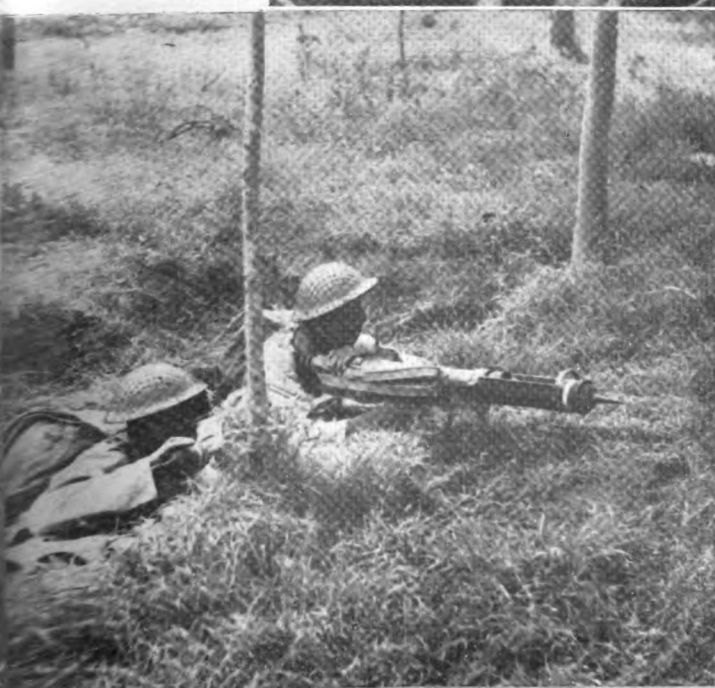


FROM bows and arrows to automatic rifles and hand grenades in one generation. A year or so ago these African soldiers were raw recruits, untrained and unskilled. To-day they handle with familiar ease the most modern and up-to-date weapons.



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WEAPONS BEGETS IN THEIR USE



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MORTARS, machine - guns, mines, Bren-guns, telescopic sights, "PIATS"—all come alike to the trained infantryman—and all are used with the skill that comes from long and careful training.



THE ASKARI LIKES

THE African askari, like every other soldier, likes his fun when he is off-duty. He enjoys listening to a good band—and the louder it plays the better he

likes it. Animals are invariably popular, while for those who enjoy reading there are numerous amusing and interesting publications in vernacular.

THIS askari finds watching the slow-moving tortoise a very intriguing way of spending his time.



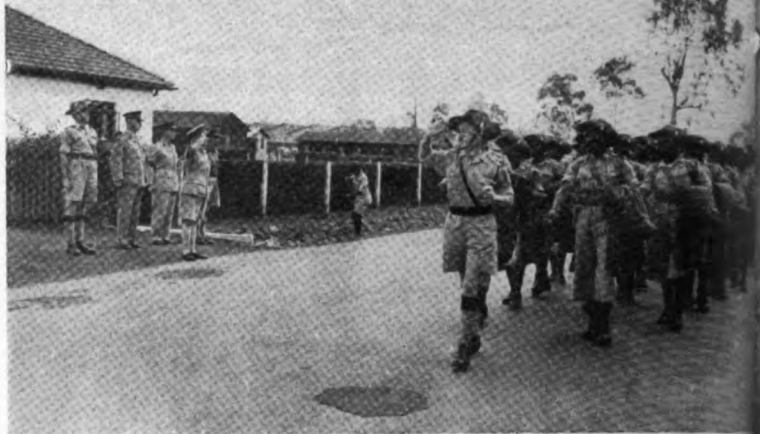


HIS FUN!



AFRICAN bands-
men are ex-
cellent musicians
and their perfor-
mances are highly
popular with
troops of all races.

REINFORCEMENTS MEAN



HUNDREDS of African soldiers who previously had never seen the sea have left the shores of East Africa to fight against the King's enemies wherever they might be found.

TRAVEL—

For most of them, the journey, from farewell march-past to final disembarkation overseas is the most momentous undertaking of their lives, but judging from their cheery expressions, nothing — not even sea-sickness — seems to worry them!

—AND SHIPS



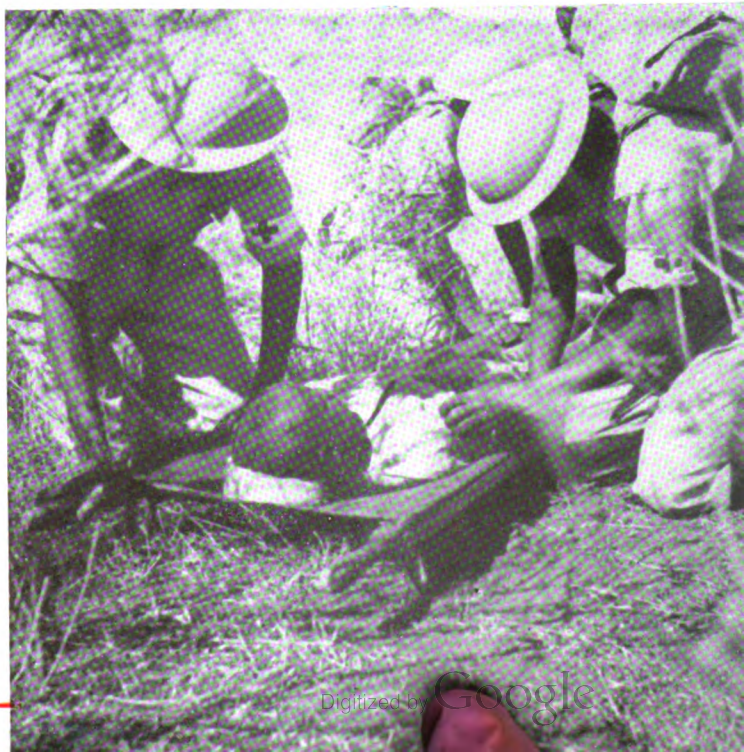


**SOME
PAY
THE PRICE...**

It is part of the inevitable price of liberty that men must suffer and sometimes die, so that the cause may go forward. The African soldier has shown on countless occasions that he is as ready to suffer—and if necessary to die gallantly—as any other soldier of any race or creed.

Confidence goes a long way towards the making of a good infantryman and this confidence is increased in no small measure when a man knows that should he "fall by the wayside" he will receive prompt and skilled medical attention.

These pictures show a wounded askari being carried from the front line by four of his comrades and receiving first aid.



INTO BATTLE—

THIS book is being produced while the second great World War is still in progress. The story of the East African Infantryman is still being written and new honours won, as these pages are printed.

One of the salient points to be remembered when the achievements of the African Infantryman are considered, is the astonishing manner in which he has developed in one generation from a raw untrained native into a skilful and courageous soldier. Only those who have had the handling and training of these men can

testify to the astonishing manner in which they have shown their resourcefulness, adaptability and bravery in action.



ON LAND



—ON WATER

TODAY they handle the many weapons with which the modern Infantryman is equipped, with a skill which reflects credit on their instructors and bodes ill for their enemies. Their natural

ability for self-concealment is a tremendous asset to them when fighting in bush or jungle — a fact which has stood them in good stead throughout the present campaign. With sten-gun or hand grenade, in dinghy or improvised pontoon, on land or on water, the African Infantryman is once more earning himself a proud place in history as a soldier of the King.



AND—



THE RAW MATERIAL



THE FINISHED PRODUCT

**Stop
Press!**

E. A. INFANTRY WITH SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND

LATEST pictures just received from South East Asia Command showing East African Infantrymen in training for the battles which lie ahead.





Left — A lesson in map reading, an African N.C.O. briefs his section.
 Above — Infantry carrying out patrol exercises in the jungle.
 Below — A observation post practices range-finding over water.





Puzzle. Spot the sniper.

Note the effective camouflage, the rifle is almost invisible.

The African infantryman is an adept at self concealment and a dangerous enemy
in thick country.

THE THREE LEGS—



A stool having one leg weaker than the others may collapse when subjected to any sudden or excessive strain. The African Infantryman whose mind and body are developed and trained by the lessons of the school-room and the physical training ground

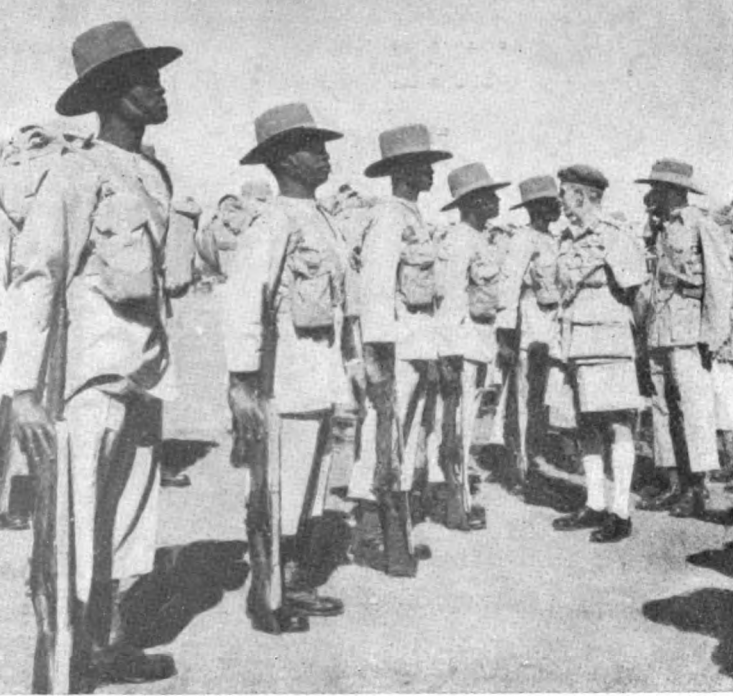


—OF THE STOOL



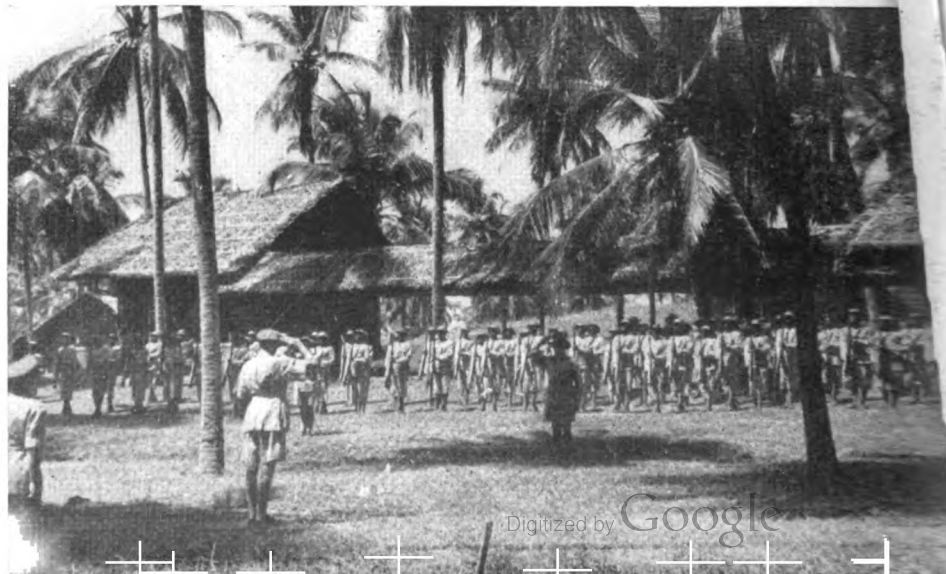
achieves further invaluable stability of character by means of spiritual guidance—the third leg in the stool of his training. These three pictures show the askari in the school-room, on the P. T. ground and receiving religious instruction in the Christian faith from an ordained African member of the East Africa Chaplains Department.





GOOD LUCK!

THE General Officer Commanding-in-Chief General Sir William Platt, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O., takes a keen personal interest in the welfare of the troops under his Command. In these pictures he is seen speaking to an askari on parade and below, taking the salute after wishing the troops "good luck" in the fighting before them.



FOR LOYALTY.

The Star appearing on the back of the cover is a reproduction of the Decoration presented by H.M. Queen Victoria to the Sudanese Officers that remained loyal during the Mutiny in 1897/1898. Only nine are known to have been presented, the original of the above having been awarded to:—

**No. 928 Native Officer (YUZBASHI)
RIZIK ABDUL RAHMAN.
of the East African Rifles.**

*Produced by the East Africa Command
in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, East Africa,
and printed by the East African Standard Ltd.,
Nairobi, Kenya.*



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